

CLAIMS: -

1. A rope terminator characterised by comprising, an elongate hollow barrel (12) formed from a fibre reinforced synthetic resin material, the barrel (12) having therein a rope receiving passage (13), and said passage having a first end region from which the rope (18) to be terminated extends in use, and an opposite, second end region, the passage tapering in internal diameter from a minimum at said first end region to a maximum at said second end region, a tapering wedge member (14) for insertion into said passage of the barrel to trap fibres (19) of the rope (18) between the outer tapering surface of the wedge member and the inner tapering surface of said passage, the wall of said passage and the surface of the said wedge member being such that the frictional drag of the rope fibres on the wall of said passage is less than the frictional drag of the fibres on the surface of the wedge member when the wedge member traps fibres against the wall of the passage, said barrel (12) having an outer surface region overlying a wider end region of said passage, said outer surface region of said barrel tapering in diameter in the same direction as the direction of taper of said region of said passage which it overlies, and, the terminator further including a hollow outer body member (11) having therein a tapering passage within which said outer tapering surface region of said barrel (12) is received, whereby said outer body member encases said outer surface region of said barrel and supports that region of the barrel against bursting loads imposed thereon by the action of said wedge member trapping rope fibres against the wall of said wider end region of said passage, and provides a means of attaching the terminated rope to an anchor point or the like in use.

- 35 -

2. A terminator as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that said outer body member is formed from steel or similar high tensile strength machineable material.
3. A terminator as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that said outer body member is formed from titanium.
4. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that said outer body member is arranged releasable to receive a plurality of alternative anchorage components.
5. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 characterised in that the fibre reinforcement of the material of the barrel is provided by one or more PBO fibres wound about the axis of the barrel.
6. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 characterised in that the fibre reinforcement of the material of the barrel is provided by one or more Aramid fibres wound about the axis of the barrel.
7. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 characterised in that the taper angle of the wedge member (14) varies along the length of the wedge member such that throughout the length of the wedge member the area of the annulus defined between the outer surface of the wedge member (14) and the inner surface of the passage (13) within which rope fibres are trapped in use is constant.

- 36 -

8. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 characterised in that the end region of the barrel (12) through which the rope (18) enters the barrel in use is lined by a sleeve member (24) which spaces the rope from the end of the barrel.

9. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 characterised in that a separately formed cover (23) overlies the length of said barrel (12) which protrudes from said body (11).

10. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 characterised by incorporating mechanical overload indicator means.

11. A terminator as claimed in claim 10 characterised in that said overload indicator means is the extrusion of the barrel (12) from the body (11) when the loading applied in use to an assembly of terminator and rope exceeds a predetermined value.

12. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 characterised in that at least two axially discrete surface regions of the exterior of said wedge member (14) have different coefficient of friction.

13. A terminator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 characterised in that the material of the fibre reinforcement of the barrel (12) is the same as or similar to the fibre material of the rope with which the terminator is to be used.

- 37 -

14. A terminator as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the barrel is adhesively bounded to the inner surface of the body.